

## Congressman Lamborn: Fighting for the 200<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron

- On June 29, 2017, Congressman Lamborn led a [letter](#) to the Secretary of the Air Force expressing concern with the misguided decision to cut the 200th Airlift Squadron, especially given the pilot shortage crisis, and debatable savings in budget or manpower.
- He offered related amendments to the NDAA in [HASC Markup](#) as well as on the House Floor to the [NDAA](#) and [defense appropriations bill](#), but unfortunately none of these amendments were successful.
- On Sep. 28, he received Air Force Secretary Wilson's [response](#), in which she promised that the pilots "will have opportunities to retrain into another flying mission and can continue to serve with other units of our Reserve Components."
- On Oct. 30, Cong. Lamborn sent an additional [letter](#) to the Air Force, along with HASC Readiness Subcommittee Chairman Joe Wilson (who has jurisdiction over the issue on HASC), and Cong. Mike Coffman, expressing three main concerns:
  - 1) Concerns that the plan is proceeding while there is still pending legislative action.
  - 2) Concerns that, should the plan proceed, the squadron be able to fly both of their jets through the middle of FY18, when their funding runs out.
  - 3) Concerns that, should the plan proceed, the National Guard Bureau and the Air Force must provide adequate transition support to the squadron pilots and maintainers.
- Finally, Cong. Lamborn recently spoke to Lt Gen Scott Rice, Director of the Air National Guard, to express the above concerns raised in the October letter, especially given the Air Force's pilot shortage crisis, and to express support for a plan to allow the C-21 pilots to transition to Instructor Pilot jobs at the Air Force Academy for the Powered Flight Training Program, if desired.
- On Jan. 19, 2018, he received a [response](#) from Secretary Wilson, listing specific transition opportunities for the squadron pilots, but unfortunately none of these are viable.
- On Jan. 24, 2018, he visited the 200th Airlift Squadron, and personally heard the stories of how people would be impacted if the misguided plan proceeds. Media accompanied him for the visit, and he is hopeful the additional attention will be helpful in resolving the issue.
- On Feb. 7, 2018, he raised the issue directly with Secretary Wilson in person. He criticized her offered transition plans as "unrealistic", and expressed support for the USAFA plan. She promised the Air Force would "do everything we can".